



The following is an Op-Ed by the Chair of the Democratic Foundation of OC

Message from the Executive Director...

Dear DFOC Members & Friends:

Please see the following Op-Ed authored by Dan Jacobson, Chair of the Democratic Foundation of Orange County.

Sincerely,

JOSH KURPIES

Executive Director

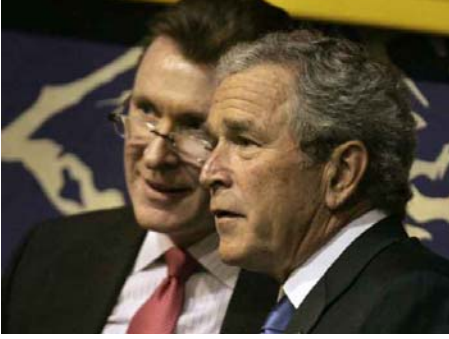
Democratic Foundation of Orange County

THE ORANGE COUNTY BETA
REGISTER

View from the Left: Dems maturing, GOP regressing?

[By Dan Jacobson](#)

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It used to be said that if one were not a Democrat when young, one had no heart; if one were not a Republican when old, one had no brain. The sentiment was that the Democratic Party, while caring, was not mature; the Republican Party, while mature, was not caring.

This saying is not heard much anymore. Today, the Democratic Party is the mature and responsible party, while the Republican Party has regressed into immaturity and irresponsibility.

In the 1960s young people who truly cared about others, who were truly compassionate and empathetical, screamed and yelled, and expressed their caring in hateful riotous outbreaks, throwing bricks and hurtful words at those who disagreed with their desire for social justice. This was an anomalous situation indeed, but not a non-understandable one.

These people lacked the maturity to understand that they should think before acting; that they should funnel their caring into constructive avenues, instead expressing themselves in the language of babies, tantrums - awful, hurtful, violent tantrums. They cared but acted out without regard to consequence. They acted without thought. They were immature. They were irresponsible. Although they did not represent the majority of the Democratic Party, they were often Democrats.

In the 1960s the Republican Party, which truly thought that the financially responsible thing to do was to fight against Medicare did indeed fight against that program. The Republican Party did not want to spend the people's money, and it wanted seniors to take care of themselves, even those who could not do so. This was a mature approach, but it was empathy-less, compassionless, and it was hurtful - very hurtful.

Then it all began to change. In the 1970s Democrat Jerry Brown - a mature young man who was a fiscal conservative - became governor, and clamped down on unwise spending. In the 1990s Democrat Bill Clinton (with the help of some Republicans in Congress who were still holding to the ideals of responsibility) balanced what had been thought to be an unbalanceable federal budget. It was the Democrats who were becoming the adults, the mature party; still caring and spending money where it needed to be spent, but spending money that was in the government coffers, keeping the budget balanced.

Then George W. Bush became president and any remaining Republican hold on the mantle of maturity and responsibility was shattered. To say that the Bush administration and its Republican Congressional cohorts spent money like drunks is to

overstate the effect of alcohol, and to understate the responsibility of drunks. Billions upon billions of dollars (that's \$X,000,000,000s upon \$X,000,000,000s) was spent "off budget," Washington-speak for spending money that we don't have, and for which we're not going to account, at least for now.

If one is immature, very immature, one has no regard for consequence. When that is the case there's no problem with whipping out the credit card, and there's no need to worry, or to even think about how the credit card company is going to get paid. Spend, spend, spend. To the immature, to the irresponsible, spending money that one does not have is never a problem because children don't worry about paying bills. They are inherently irresponsible.

And why stop at spending the people's money (current and far into the future) when there's all sorts of money that can be gambled by "conservative" bankers - without regard to the consequence of the risk of loss. Mommy and Daddy (the federal treasury) will pay off the loan sharks if they get nasty. Put up \$1, borrow \$39 and let it ride. Who cares about paying the \$39 back if craps are thrown. Mommy and Daddy will take care of it. These immature banker bets were allowed by the Republicans at the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Bush Administration, and the Republican Congress.

What a party the Republicans had! It was a grand party. It used to be the Grand Old Party.

The party that used to stand for maturity and responsibility crashed when its reckless immaturity almost sent all of us into the abyss. When the party was over, the party (in the guise of then-Treasury Secretary Paulson) came to the people, came to Mommy and Daddy, and said that the loan sharks are getting mean; pretty please pay them off. And they were paid off, lest the loan sharks harm us all.

Then the adults took charge, the mature and responsible Democratic Party, and the Republican kids nursed their hangovers. And, what generally happens after spoiled kids get bailed out by their parents? Do they reform? Do they grow up? Generally not. Generally they just go back to their immature ways.

While the immature, unthoughtful Republican Party does not represent the majority of Republicans, sadly it is now the Republican establishment.

Look at the evidence. Lying, screaming and thuggery committed, fostered, and condoned by the Republican establishment. The "Obama bank bailout," was actually a bailout done under the Bush administration, and caused by the recklessness of the Republicans.

"You lie" was hurled at a president who had just spoken the truth. Federal "death panels" were never contemplated, were never part of the health care reform bill, and are not part of the health care reform law. "Baby killer" was screamed about a bill that continues the ban of federal money for abortion.

When the Democrats were required to spend money to stimulate an economy that had been bludgeoned by the Republicans, the Republican Party screamed "big spenders." No. The Democrats didn't want to spend that money. Such spending was required as

restitution to an economy that the Republicans had battered.

People are being egged on by the Republican establishment, with the low emotions of hate and fear, to break windows of, hurl racial epithets at, and spit on congressmen and congresswomen.

Alas, an immature institution is by definition unsustainable. It dies or it grows up. The Republican Party is withering. Republicans who don't want to be associated with screaming, lying, and thuggery are changing their registration, or are just voting Democrat. Witness President Obama's Orange County election results.

As a partisan, I revel in the Republican Party's descent into unsustainable immaturity. As an American, I do not so revel. I mourn the loss of civil discourse. Republicans Party, grow up, please grow up, for your county! Republicans, most Republicans, who deplore the depravity that has infected your party - the Democratic Party will welcome you should you wish to join us.

Tustin attorney Dan Jacobson is chair of the Democratic Foundation of Orange County.